

March 2016

## The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

### The Ventura Lewis Family (Buky, Theresa, & Elena)

#### Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza

---



### Ten Years

It's hard to believe that this month marks ten years since I (Theresa) moved down to serve at Clínica La Esperanza full-time. God has richly blessed my life at La Esperanza. I'm grateful to God for a partner in ministry. Buky and I celebrated seven years of marriage last month. We were blessed to discover that another couple, celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary, paid for our anniversary dinner. God has filled our lives with joy through our daughter, Elena. We can hardly believe that she turned 6 months last month. Times goes by so fast! We truly have witnessed the goodness of the Lord and we believe that the best is yet to come! Thank you for supporting us throughout this journey through your friendship, prayers, and financial contributions!



Above: Buky and Theresa celebrated their 7th wedding anniversary on February 14th.

### Elena in the States

As much as I had hoped that we would cross to the States as a family, Elena and I made a two-day trip to the States in February so I could apply for her Social Security number. I had vowed that I never wanted to be in this situation of having a baby and not being able to have Buky cross with me, and yet here we are and we are making the best of it. I can't complain because I feel like God made my situation as easy as possible because I was accompanied by Mexican Medical staff the whole trip, from crossing the border to being out on business. We'll keep having faith that our situation will change soon.



Left: Elena turns 7 months old on March 25th. My, time is going by fast! Last month, she started eating solids: pureed carrots, avocado, and green beans. She is more vocal and says, "Da, Da, Da!" In general, she is a happy girl!

### The Power of "Living Water"

Last fall, we hosted Hope Church from New Hampshire. On that team was Alice Bassen, an audiologist, who provided 10 patients with donated hearing aids. One item that we

always have available at our outreaches is the Agua Viva (“Living Water”) Gospel of John booklet. One patient, Francisco Guzman, asked for four copies so that he could share the Gospel with his children.

Last month, he came back to our clinic to pick up a new ear mold for his hearing aid, and, while here, he asked if he could have six more Agua Vivas so that he could share the Gospel with more people in his family. We admire his ambition and are grateful that we can play a part by providing him with a tool like the Agua Viva to change the course of his family’s lives for eternity.



Above: Francisco Guzman with a Gospel of John booklet that he plans on sharing with his family.

## The Potential of Film Ministry

Last summer, we went back to migrant camp Camp Vergel weekly to show Christian films, pray for people, and give out Bibles. One night at film, Buky was approached by a man named Andrés who had once been a disciple of Buky’s

father, Rafael. Andrés was a migrant farm worker from Oaxaca who had come to know the Lord many years ago through film ministry at Camp Pulgas (“Camp of the Fleas”). After he came to know the Lord, he was sad that he had to go back to Oaxaca, but Rafael told him that he shouldn’t be sad because he was going to go back to preach the Gospel. One night, Andrés came to Rafael and insisted on being baptized before he left for Oaxaca the next day. So, Rafael went out to the beach that night to baptize him.

When Andrés arrived in Oaxaca, he began to share the Gospel with his family and then, over time, he shared with people in his community. Andrés came back to Baja later and testified of how he had received death threats for preaching the Gospel. Despite these threats, Andrés persevered, and now there is a church in his community.

Some nights at film ministry can be discouraging when we don’t see anyone go forward to receive prayer, but hearing the testimony of Andrés encourages us to continue because we never know when we will have another person like Andrés come to film ministry that God will use to bring change to his community.



Above: Maurilio Ventura lifts up the screen on the film truck for film ministry in Camp Vergel.

## Drama Team in Youth Ministry

Last month, our church hosted a conference for the youth in the San Quintín Valley. Buky's brother, Danny, and his wife, Alice, organized a youth team to present a mime and drama at the conference. It was exciting to see new youth getting involved with this ministry. The mime and drama were powerful! They performed another drama at a couples' service at our church on Valentine's Day and were even invited to perform at another church.

Please pray for these youth as they continue to minister through mime and drama. After witnessing the youths' enthusiasm in this ministry, we felt it was confirmation to continue forward in the construction of the youth center, so that the youth from our community will have their own space to fellowship and grow in their relationship with Christ.



Above: The youth team presents a mime about the love of Jesus at the church on Valentine's Day.

## Another Goodbye

After summer ministry and Elena's birth,

we decided to take some time off from Saturday Kids' Club. We were soon reminded how important this investment of time really is in the lives of these children. Near the end of September, the village faced the loss of another child, Lizeth, age 9. She died from complications with her lungs. Lizeth was very shy, but she finally started coming to Kids' Club this summer and Buky was able to share with her about the love of Jesus.

Lizeth lived at the dump with her grandparents and brother. Her brother didn't come to club one day because he didn't have any shoes. Although she didn't always have the cleanest clothes, her family made sure that she was well-dressed for her funeral. She was so beautiful in the casket that I could hardly recognize her. We sang "Jesus Loves Me" at her funeral with the other children. We will miss not getting to know this sweet girl better. I find peace knowing that Lizeth is in heaven with Jesus, and Luis, the boy from Kids' Club who passed away two years ago.

Even out of something so terribly sad, we have seen God bring about good. As a result of attending Lizeth's funeral, a woman in our village rededicated her life to Christ. Since this fall, she has been faithfully attending our church and brings her mother-in-law. This January, she visited her family in the southern state of Michoacán, spoke to them about the hope we have in Christ, and took them to church.

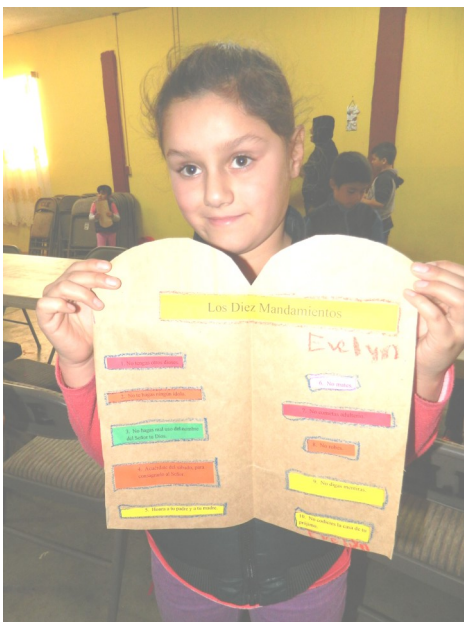
## Saturday Kids' Club

The children continue to be thrilled about coming to Kids' Club. We have around 30 kids attending each week. Three of the girls were



very excited to tell me that they had recently found the stories from Kids' Club (like the Ten Commandments) in the Bibles we had given them. It was so encouraging to hear that they are reading their Bibles!

Buky and I try to go for a walk in the park with Elena several times a week. The park is right by the school and when it's time for recess the kids will run to the fence and greet us. They yell, "Teresita! Buky!" It brings joy to our hearts that the kids feel comfortable with us because they know us through club, but it brings us even greater joy that they are getting to know JESUS too!



Above: Evelyn shares her "Ten Commandments" craft.  
Below: The children enjoying snack time at Kids' Club.



Left: Marta, one of our Kids' Club volunteers, helps one of the smaller children with their craft.

### Please Pray For . . .

- God to touch people's lives this spring as we minister to children in Camp Vergel and the elderly at Buen Samaritano.
- The youth of the community, the plans for the construction of the youth center, and workers to be able to complete the project.
- The arrival of the letter with Buky's visa appointment date.
- A successful operation for Buky's mother, Alicia, this Spring.

### Upcoming Team Ministry:

- March 19-26: Sutherlin Family Church from Oregon
- April 20-22: Surgical team at Buen Pastor Hospital

### Contact Information for Theresa & Buky

#### Address for donations:

Mexican Medical  
7850 Lester Ave.  
Lemon Grove, CA 91945

(Checks made payable to: Mexican Medical, with indication that they are for Theresa Lewis.)

For correspondence: include c/o Theresa Lewis with address above.

#### Phone Numbers:

Mexican home phone:  
011-52-616-166-7033

Theresa's Mexican cell phone:  
011-521-616-111-6394

U.S. cell (when stateside):  
503-537-8373

Mexican Medical office:  
619-463-4777

E-mail:  
theresamarielew@yahoo.com